



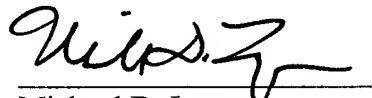
Applicant notes that although the cited reference may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicant further notes that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the reference cited herein constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2), Applicant has included payment of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees deemed necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* to Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/29/04



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